

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 9, 10, 16, 17, 22, 25, 28-30, 32, 34, 36, 38 and 40 are pending in the present application. Claims 5-7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 24, 26, 27, 42 and 43 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and Claims 1, 9, 16, 25, 28, 34 and 36 have been amended by the present amendment without an introduction of any new matter.

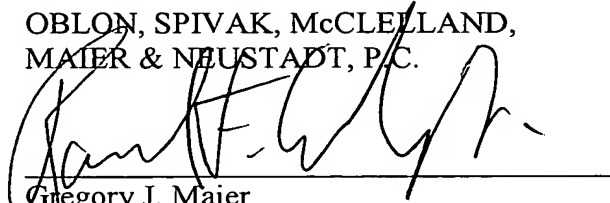
In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9, 10, 13, 14, 16, 17, 20-22, 24 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Coronel et al. (U.S. Patent 6,363,294, herein "Coronel"); Claims 26, 29, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40 and 42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious features associated with typical database management; and Claims 27, 28 and 43 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 27, 28 and 43 include allowable subject matter. In light of that indication, Claims 1, 9 and 16 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 43, and Claim 43 has been canceled. Claim 25 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 27 and the subject matter of intervening Claim 26, and Claims 26 and 27 have been canceled. Claim 28 has been amended to correct its dependency. Further, the claims have been amended for clarification. No new matter is added thereby.

Consequently, in light of the prior indication of allowable subject matter and the above discussion, and in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding, and therefore the present application is in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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